

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed May 5, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on the combination of U.S. Pat. No. 5,689,141 to Kikkawa, et al (Kikkawa) in view of the non-patent reference F. KLEINER, et al., "Increase power and Efficiency of LNG Refrigeration Compressor Drivers," Jan. 2003 (Kleiner). The Examiner granted and gave a telephonic interview to Applicants' representative on June 13, 2008 upon the oral request of Applicants' representative, which is greatly appreciated. Applicants herein present responses in light of the office action, the prior art, and the interview. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and an allowance of currently pending claims 1-11.

### **The Interview**

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting a telephonic interview to Applicant's representative on June 13, 2008. In discussing the application and the prior art, Applicant's representative pointed out that the Kleiner reference fails to disclose placing the motor/generator between the compressor and the turbine. Because the Kikkawa reference admittedly lacks such a disclosure, the combined references fail to teach each element of claim 1. The Examiner agreed with this assessment. The Examiner also mentioned the disclosure of U.S. Pat. No. 5,491,969 to Cohn as teaching the arrangement of claim 1. It was pointed out that Cohn does not relate to LNG plants, teaches a separate motor and generator, and that the location of the motor/generator of the application serves practical purposes and is not merely a design choice.

### **Objection to Drawings**

The Examiner objected to the drawings because FIG. 3 did not copy well and no details can be seen. Applicants have attached a replacement sheet to this office action response in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d) in electronic form. The replacement sheet does not contain any new matter. It is believed that FIG. 3 as it appears on the electronic replacement sheet is legible and Applicants believe that this is sufficient to overcome the objection to the drawings. Acceptance of the drawings is earnestly solicited.

**Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by Kikkawa in view of Kleiner. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The prior art fails to teach or suggest each element of the claims. As discussed in the interview, none of the asserted references teaches or suggests the configuration of claim 1. In fact, there appears to be no prior art reference containing such a teaching or suggestion. For at least this reason, it is believed that claim 1 is patentable over the prior art and an allowance of claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom is earnestly solicited.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the interview and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims 1-11, removal of the objection to the drawings, and issuance of a notice of allowance of all pending claims. While no fees are believed to be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account No. 05-1328 for any fees associated with this application. Further, if the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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